

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /057 W  
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R 120530Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 1289

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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SUBJECT: RPP PREPARES FOR ITS NATIONAL CONVENTION

SUMMARY: RPP TWENTY-SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION WILL BE HELD IN ANKARA BEGINNING DECEMBER 14. RESULTS OF PROVINCIAL PARTY CONGRESSES WHICH PRECEDED CONVENTION INDICATE MODERATE FACTION WILL EASILY RETAIN CONTROL OF PARTY MACHINERY. PRIMARY REASON FOR FAILURE OF EXTREMIST CHALLENGE IS PERSONAL POPULARITY OF ECEVIT. PARTY WILL EMERGE FROM CONVENTION SUPER-

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FICALLY STRONGER BUT FUNDAMENTAL CONFLICT WILL NOT HAVE BEEN RESOLVED. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN PREPARATION FOR RPP 22ND NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHICH WILL BEGIN IN ANKARA DEC 14 ALL PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE HELD CONGRESSES DURING LAST FEW WEEKS. RESULTS IN AEGEAN TURKEY CONSTITUTE STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF ECEVIT AND PRESENT, MODERATE (LEFT OF CENTER) PARTY LEADERSHIP. EXTREMIST GROUP (DEMOCRATIC LEFT) MOUNTED STRONG CHALLENGE IN MOST PROVINCES OF IZMIR CONSULAR DISTRICT, BUT WON IN ONLY TWO. IN ANTALYA FORCES ALLIED WITH FORMER FINANCE MINISTER DENIS BAYKAL LOST BADLY. EXTREMIST GROUP IN AYDIN, WITH SUPPORT OF DEPUTY SUKRU KOC, MANAGED TO OVERWHELM MODERATE SLATE. CONTESTS IN MUGLA AND MANISA WERE HARD FOUGHT AND BITTER. MODERATES' MARGIN OF VICTORY IN MUGLA ONLY THREE VOTES.

2. IN CONTRAST IZMIR PROVINCIAL CONGRESS DEC. 1 PASSED WITHOUT INCIDENT. VICTORY OF MODERATE SLATE IN IZMIR COUNTRY CONGRESS THREE WEEKS EARLIER (REFTEL) HAD ASSURED MODERATES OF VICTORY. EXTREMISTS EFFECTIVELY

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CONCEDED BEFORE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS BY SELECTING LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT ISKENDER OZTURANLI AS ITS CANDIDATE FOR PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN. OZTURANLI WELL KNOWN BUT LACKS PERSONAL POLITICAL BASE AND WIDELY REGARDED AS POLITICAL DILETTANTE.

3. INCUMBENT PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN EKREM BULGUN, WHO WAS SUPPORTED BY MODERATES NOT PARTICULARLY STRONG CANDIDATE, BUT DURING HIS YEAR INCUMBENCY HE HAS DEVELOPED SOME PERSONAL SUPPORT AND, MORE IMPORTANT, HE HAD UNDISPUTED SUPPORT OF PARTY ESTABLISHMENT. LATTER FACT BECAME ISSUE IN DAYS PRECEDING PROVINCIAL CONGRESS AND BULGUN FORCED TO DENY HE CENTRAL PARTY ADMINISTRATIONS' CANDIDATE. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HE WIDELY CIRCULATED CLAIM HE PERSONAL CHOICE OF ECEVIT.

4. BULGUN'S NEED TO SEPARATE HIMSELF FROM PARTY HEADQUARTERS WHILE EMBRACING ECEVIT TELLS A LOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ABOUT CURRENT STATE OF RPP. TO MOST OF PEOPLE RPP IS BULENT ECEVIT. WITHOUT HIM PARTY WOULD HAVE NO HOPE OF BECOMING MAJORITY PARTY -- OR OF MAINTAINING ITS PRESENT PLURALITY IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. ECEVIT'S

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TREMENDOUS PERSONAL POPULARITY IS ALSO MAJOR REASON FOR EXTREMISTS' FAILURE TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT GAINS IN PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES. DESPITE FERMENT WITHIN PARTY -- AND IT DOES EXIST; DESPITE FAIRLY WIDESPREAD DISENCHANTMENT WITH PARTY LEADERSHIP -- EXCEPT FOR ECEVIT; AND DESPITE VERY STRONG AND WELL ORGANIZED PUSH BY EXTREMISTS, PARTY REGULARS FOR MOST PART WERE NOT WILLING RISK UNDERCUTTING OR CROSSING ECEVIT. THEREFORE UNLESS THEY HAD STRONG PERSONAL OR POLITICAL REASONS FOR DOING OTHERWISE, MOST DELEGATES TO COUNTY AND PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES VOTED FOR STATUS QUO, I.E., THE MODERATES WHO NOW CONTROL CENTRAL PARTY MACHINERY AND WHO ARE TOTALLY COMMITTED TO ECEVIT. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DURING THESE CONGRESSES ECEVIT TRIED TO KEEP HIMSELF ABOVE THE BATTLE ALTHOUGH WHEN PUSH CAME TO SHOVE, HE GENERALLY LEANED TOWARD MODERATES.

5. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES WITHIN IZMIR RPP ORGANIZATION, RPP NATIONAL CONVENTION THIS COMING WEEKEND WILL PROBABLY BE REPLAY OF IZMIR PROVINCIAL CONGRESS.

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WINNING GROUP HAS ALREADY BEEN DETERMINED. WHAT REMAINS IS FOR IT TO SELECT ITS CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY GENERAL -- PROBABLY EITHER INCUMBENT EYUBOGLU, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER GUNES, OR POSSIBLY, BUT LESS LIKELY, FORMER FINANCE MINISTER BAYKAL. EXTREMISTS WILL HAVE TO BE CONTENT WITH PARTY ACCEPTANCE OF AND DEFINITION OF "DEMOCRATIC LEFT" SLOGAN THEY HAVE BEEN PROMOTING.

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6. IF, AS SUGGESTED, RPP NATIONAL CONVENTION PASSES WITHOUT MAJOR CONFLICT OF INCIDENT, PARTY UNITY WILL BE SUPERFICIALLY IMPROVED, BUT SEEDS OF FUTURE DISCORD WILL HAVE BEEN SOWN. EXTREMISTS WANT A HEARING. IF THEY ARE COMPLETELY SHUT OFF AT PARTY CONVENTION, THEY MAY BE FORCED TO CONCLUDE RPP IS NOT PARTY OF THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE.  
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